

Read out: PM & MP Vandenberg - 2022-02-02

From: "Ning, Alan" <alan.ning@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
To: "Ahmad, Cameron" <cameron.ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Broadhurst, Jeremy" <jeremy.broadhurst@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>, "Brodhead, John" <john.brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Chin, Ben" <ben.chin@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Clow, Brian" <brian.clow@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Goodman, Sarah" <sarah.goodman@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Hallé, Andrée-Lyne" <andree-lyne.halle@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Patel, Zubair" <zubair.patel@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Stickney, Matt" <matt.stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Telford, Katie" <katie.telford@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Theis, Rick" <rick.theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Kattar, Vandana" <vandana.kattar@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Michel, Marjorie" <marjorie.michel@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: Personal Info. [REDACTED] Personal Info. [REDACTED]
Personal Info. [REDACTED] "Lapointe, Linda" <linda.lapointe@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "St-Denis, Natalie" <natalie.st-denis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
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Hello, please see the read out between PM and MP Vandenberg.

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MP Vandenberg suggested that, given the volatile situation in Ottawa right now and for the safety of caucus members, the Whips office can send a message to ask that MPs can stay home by default, but have the option to come in if they desire.

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PMJT: Hello Anita! How are you?

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Anita: I'm doing good, how are you, [REDACTED]

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PM: [REDACTED] I just want to check in, spoke to a number of Ottawa MPs, but particularly how are you doing?

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Anita: I really appreciate it. I'm torn, I'm scared, but I get really mad that I'm scared. Kids with autism, the noise, it's one of those things you feel like ok well it's awful. I'm not a stranger to volatile environments, but it's different because I know the sentiment is directed towards us, you particularly. There is this hate for liberals.

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Women's caucus came up. I know a lot of MPs are reluctant to ask the Whips office an exception because why am I special? But what is the level of risk? I suggest that there should be a message that you should stay home by default, but if you want to come to the HoC you can.

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I do think that it may deter some young women that are looking at politics, racialized people looking at politics. I think we need to do a bit of debriefing after this. I don't want anything to happen to one of us, god forbid you, before we start thinking about all of this.

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A lot of constituents are calling me about what the PM is going to do about it, it's hard because I know it's not within your purview. People are frustrated and they just want somebody to do something to get the city back. I'm sure you heard some of the horrible things. Some drove to one of the Jewish neighborhoods in my riding and just spilled hateful messages.

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PM: it's about how you balance it about being responsible and reasonable, but safety is the key.

Anita: I really appreciate the check in.

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Alan Ning

Regional Advisor, Ontario | Conseillere régional, Ontario
Office of the Prime Minister | Cabinet du Premier ministre
Personal Info.

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